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February 2007

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Often when we think of gay icons, whether they are straight or gay, we recognise them for a sole contribution to the GLBT community. Such is not the case with Dame Elizabeth Taylor.

Thanks to one inspiring youth, fundraising to fight HIV/AIDS is about to become an extreme sport. This June, one hundred participants will race 250K across the Gobi Desert.



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Canada posts another first, as Proud FM becomes the first twenty-four/seven commercial radio station in the world to broadcast for the GLBT community.

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Gay Tourist Attraction?

By John Coulbourn

Is it just me, or does it seem like every time a gay man turns around these days, someone is trying to get into his pants? Now, before we launch an international alarm alerting an unsuspecting world to the threat of rampant gaydom suddenly spreading like the plague, (brought on by global warming, climate change and the filming of *Dream Girls*), perhaps I should clarify.

I'm not suggesting for a moment that everybody and their hunky younger brother is suddenly determined to get into our pants in the conventional way of our community.

In fact, it's safe to say that a lot of the people who are just dying to get into your pants and mine couldn't give a fig about the 'package' we've been known to tuck (less than discreetly, if the truth were told) behind the buttons of our favourite chinos, sk8ter shorts or 501s.

Instead, they've got their eye firmly on another package in another part of our pants entirely—the one we've traditionally kept tucked into our hip pockets. It's called a wallet, and suddenly it seems, everybody's got the hots for it, especially when it happens to be nestled against the firm but rounded butt-cheek of any friend of Dorothy's.

Lately, business people all over North America have suddenly realized that the gay and lesbian community—for all our well-documented and oft-discussed faults—still manage to pack a substantial portion of change into those wallets when we set out to have a good time.

In consequence, there are more and more people joining a growing line-up every day to try to get you to pry that wallet out of your Levis and liberate a bit of that coin in their general direction of their particular business emporium. When it boils down to matters of common cents, it turns out that the travel industry, like so many others, can be gayer than pink ink when the occasion demands.

And small wonder really, what with the bright lights of the American travel industry boasting that the gay and lesbian traveller accounts for some $60-plus billion in bullion to the American economy alone, entirely too much of which is being spent in San Francisco and Philadelphia, at least from the perspective of all those folks grappling with the bottom line in the so-called red states.

One assumes that Toronto is on their list too, still doing its level best to become the homo-honeymoon capital of the world on the basis of the world's first legal same-sex marriage, performed right here a stone's throw from the banks of the Don.

So lucrative has the gay community become, in fact, that the Canadian Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has launched a study of six Canadian cities to learn more about travel habits in the GLBT community and even the folks in Alberta are jumping on the band wagon looking to attract a tourist who's looking for a gay old time in the land of *Brokeback Mountain*.

Of course, that's all good news considering that many of us were born into a world where gay travel usually meant getting out of town by sundown. We've come a long way, baby, indeed.

But still, one is left to wonder just why it's such a tough thing to figure out how to attract the gay and lesbian traveller. I mean, it's not as though we are a separate species from our hetero-brethren, and in the final analysis, we all look for much the same things when we travel, regardless of whom we're looking to get into our beds.

To be sure, there is this notion of gay traveller being led around at the mercy of the penis rampant, content to go wherever it takes him in its search for continuous gratification. And while there is, no doubt, more than an element of truth to such a notion, is it really all that far removed from the vision of heteros flocking to singles bars and single resorts and the like?

Truth is, in his never ending quest for a leg-over, mankind—particularly mankind of the youthful persuasion—and to hell with gay and straight—has travelled further on testosterone than he ever has on jet fuel.

So, at least on the surface of things, it would be safe to say that if you want to attract gay visitors, your best bet is to emulate duck hunters the world over and scatter a few decoys around your place of business, because the best bait to attract gay visitors is always going to be gay residents.

But even when you rule out the quest for intimate companionship, that holds true, one would think, for what could make a travel destination more appealing than finding a community at the other end of your trip that isn't going to look at you like you've got two heads, or worse yet, try and knock one of 'em off your shoulders for you? While there is not doubt a market for extreme adventure travel within the gay community, I don't think hetero-baiting in Wyoming is ever going to be a big seller.

So, for all those businessmen who are currently tying themselves in knots trying to attract the gay community, loosen up—unless, of course, you're into that sort of thing.

The gay traveller is looking for the same thing a straight traveller is, but with a few twists you're going to have to get your head around— like the fact that featuring big breasted and scantily-clad women in your adverts isn't going to mean jack-squat—unless you're running a lesbian bar.

And finally, if you're really determined to get into our pants—at least the hip-pocket portion of them—you better convince us that you'll still respect us in the morning. ▼

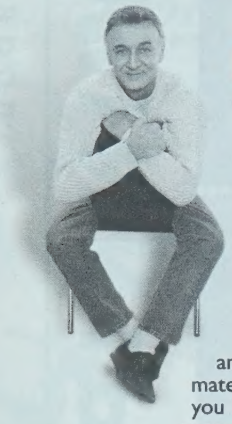
John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.


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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

By Roy Heale

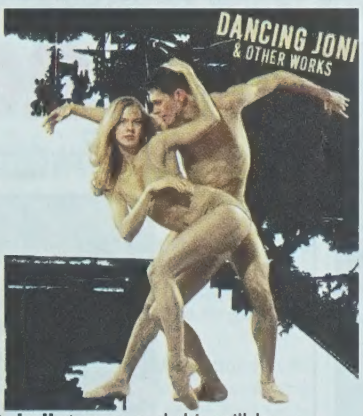
Here it is, once again, the month for celebrating love and marriage. If you are still searching for that perfect mate, this is the time to watch for Cupid's arrow—or if you have your life partner already, this may be the time to propose marriage. Despite Stephen Harper's attempts to the contrary, we can still enjoy the prospect of marrying our loved one.

WEDDING BLISS BALL

If you are planning on making that proposal on Valentine's Day then you might be interested in the upcoming extraordinary way to say "Yes". The Wedding Bliss Ball will take place on April 1, 2007 with a multitude of same-sex couples getting married together or renewing their existing vows. Organiser Rev. Nadine Rogers says, "We live in a time and country that embraces and honours the divine right of every person to love and be loved." The Ball will include a legal non-denominational Wedding Ceremony by one of Calgary's ministers, a photographer, live entertainment, appetisers and champagne all for one reasonable inclusive cost. Couples can register online at **weddingsmyway.com**, and the deadline is March 15, 2007. Celebrate together in community and love.

DANCING JONI AND OTHER WORKS

When you're trying to find a special way to celebrate Valentine's with your significant other you might want to consider a unique entertainment idea. Joni Mitchell paints a ballet for the Twenty-first Century in collaboration with the Alberta Ballet in this original new production. Mitchell returns to her roots and creates evocative new art with help from Jean Grande-Maitre, the Artistic Director of Alberta Ballet. The semi-abstract ballet, danced in neo-classical style, will be performed to an hour of Mitchell's compelling and provocative music. Alberta ballet's twenty-six athletic dancers will merge with Mitchell's eclectic sound and visual art to awaken and stir the soul—a fitting way to celebrate love and passion. The performances in Calgary are February 8 to 10 and in Edmonton February 16 and 17. More details are available at **albertaballet.com** and this will be an evening to treasure.



CALGARY CARES RETURNS

Perhaps you would like to give a Valentine's gift that also gives back to our community. If so, purchase your tickets early for Calgary Cares 2007. After a one-year hiatus, the popular AIDS Calgary fundraiser Calgary Cares returns to the Jack Singer Concert Hall on March 23. The evening is full of live music on stage, a pre-show cocktail party, culinary delights, fashion show, after party and surprises. Tickets are $150 each and AIDS Calgary will once again benefit from the evening's festivities. Always guaranteed to be an evening of fun, entertainment and celebration, this is the perfect gift for someone special or just a good friend.

We hope the above ideas will inspire your own Valentine's celebrations.

FAREWELL IN WINNIPEG

After five years as the Out & About photographer in Winnipeg, Brent has decided it is time to pass the baton. He has spent many an evening covering local community events and celebrations providing us with some great moments captured on his camera. Brent will be missed by the Winnipeg community and by everyone here at *Outlooks*. We would like to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication. He is renowned around Winnipeg as the unofficial 'Gay Paparazzi' and his support for the local gay community is well known. All the best, Brent, and we hope you'll send the odd photo to *Outlooks* every now and then.

If you live in Winnipeg and would like to assume the role as Out & About photographer please email me at rheale@outlooks.ca for more details.

Next month is our Tenth Anniversary issue and we are looking forward to celebrating with a special edition for all of our readers to enjoy.

Happy Valentine's Day from everyone here at *Outlooks*. ▼

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plug in now

OUTLOOKS

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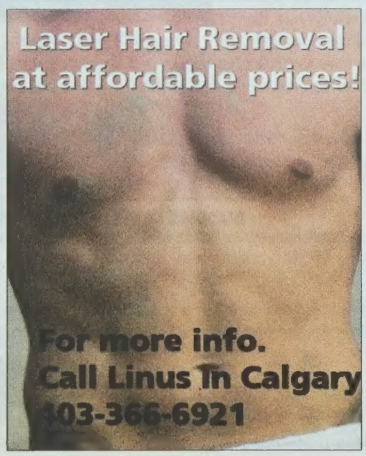
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All photos by Brent who is leaving Outlooks after five years covering the Winnipeg community for Out & About. Thank you Brent for a great job and we will all miss you!

If you would like to be the new Outlooks photographer in Winnipeg please contact us at: rheale@outlooks.ca for more details.


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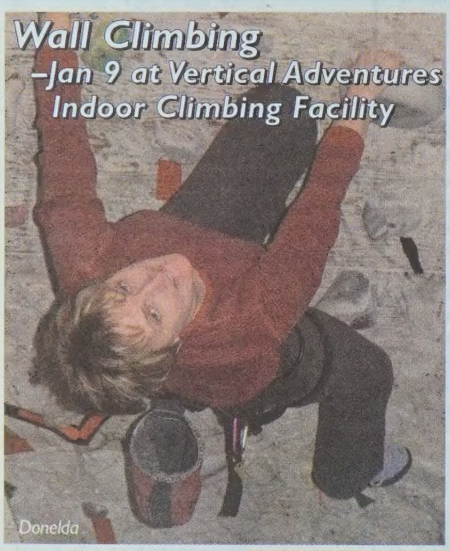

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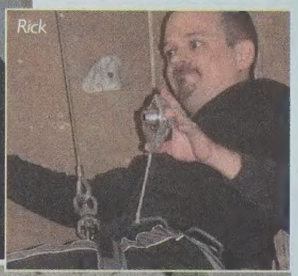

Donelda


Gwen


Jordan



Brent


Rick


(L - R) Gwen, Dave, Rick, Donelda, Matt, Darren

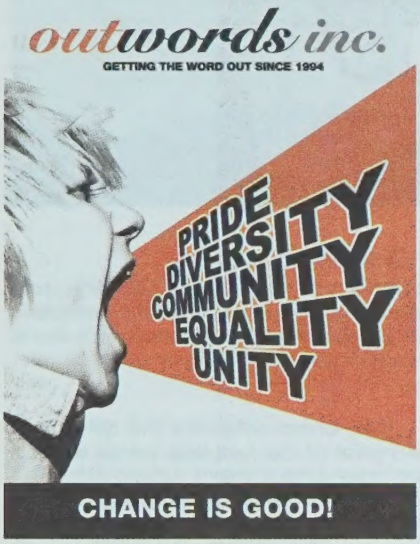
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OutWords Inc. Makes Its Manitoba Debut



By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

A rose by any other name may smell as sweet, but what about a magazine?

Is it possible to create and trademark a new name that will find favour with readers and writers, while still conveying the well-loved essence of the old magazine?

That's been the challenge for the editor and board of Manitoba's GLBT magazine, formerly known as *Swerve*. Created by a cooperative back in November 1994, the magazine's mission was to give a voice to the gay and lesbian community.

As of January 2007, the Winnipeg-based *Swerve* is no more, replaced with a shiny new masthead that declares it has morphed into *OutWords Inc.*

That first issue in 1994 was a labour of love, with one of the co-op members paying the printing bill on a personal credit card. But since its founding, the non-profit paper has managed to publish monthly for a dozen years, despite many ups and downs. The legal and social GLBT landscape has changed enormously in the intervening years, but there is still a need for a GLBT voice—a publishing mirror to reflect the community's news and views.

Today it prints six thousand copies a month and has up to ten thousand readers. Over its lifetime it has weathered many crises, including financial ones, but it retains a loyal readership and loyal core of advertisers. With a gross annual turnover of around $90,000 it manages to break even and is even able to pay small retainers to a core staff, including editors, a designer and an advertising salesman.

In the past year it's changed its format to a smaller magazine style, added full colour, improved its paper stock and re-jigged its features, news and reviews pages.

The original name was never trademarked due to a lack of funds. The decision to rename it came about when a newspaper owned by a large media chain began using the same name on one of its magazines and set about the trade marking process.

The Winnipeg magazine took legal advice and was told it likely had a good chance of laying claim to the name, having used it for a dozen years. But it was also warned it could be a very expensive legal process to oppose the other trademark application. And even if it won round one, there might be lengthy and expensive appeals to deal with.

Since the magazine operates on a shoestring budget, the board decided in its wisdom not to waste time or money on the rearguard action and came to a settlement that allows the chain to use and trademark the old name. And since the Winnipeg GLBT publication had been undergoing major changes anyway, it seemed a good time to embark on a new era of gay rights and publishing.

A public contest drew suggestions from several readers. Board and staff drew up many more. Of the 140 names that were suggested, the list was narrowed down after searches on the Canadian Intellectual Property Office trademark database. Simple searches online revealed that many of the suggested names were already in use as magazine titles. The remainder were carefully analyzed, with their positive and negative aspects being carefully assessed.

"It was a lot more involved than I could have imagined," says editor Charles Melvin. "I think each one of our top choices was based on personal ideas of what the magazine should represent, but *OutWords Inc.* was the one name four out of five of us on the board chose as a finalist.

"I don't think anyone ended up with their favourite name—we all had a favourite—and I believe that the name *OutWords Inc.* does encompass all of the ideals we have for the magazine's future."

He says working on a non-profit magazine is a balance of challenges and rewards. Two new writers started submitting their work last month and they'll be published in the next issue.

"I like the fact that the name *OutWords Inc.* made its debut along with two writers voices," he says. "I remember the sense of validation that came with my first published submission in Swerve, so it's rewarding that *OutWords Inc.* continues our long-standing purpose of allowing emerging writers and artists in Winnipeg to express themselves in print."

The magazine is free to the public, so buying thousands of dollars in professional marketing and testing services wasn't an option, according to Melvin.

We were very fortunate to have Rob Coté of Blindside Design volunteer his time and expertise to help us come to a decision," he says. "In the end, for a magazine driven by a mission statement rather than the drive to reward shareholders, I think we chose a good, solid name."

Board member Anna Olson says she likes the new name, but there was a lot of emotional attachment to the old one too. "Having Rob Cote help us through the process did make it easier to analyse potential names, but it wasn't easy finding one that was snappy and had the same pizzazz," she says. "So far people seem to like it."

Editor Melvin says people will soon get used to the new name and he and other board members are relieved a decision was finally reached. In the event of total deadlock there was at one time a tentative plan to name the publication Sine Nomine, which is Latin for Without A Name. Fortunately that option wasn't needed.

Adds Melvin: "As our building's receptionist said to me when I told her the new title: "It's time to move *OutWords*, onwards and upwards." ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for Maclean's and The Financial Post. He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio. As honorary press secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba in the 1980s, Peter was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for services to Canada in 2003.

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Valentine's CHEERS—and TEARS
Counting Down Moderm Love Songs

By Josh Murray

Light My Fire

Crafting a timeless love song is no easy feat. Ask Celine Dion. "My Heart Will Go On" will forever remind most of the film-going public of the tragic deaths of hundreds in icy waters off Canada's eastern coastline.

An enduring ode to romance requires a subtlety that escapes many artists. Has someone actually made love (well) to Meat Loaf's "Paradise by the Dashboard Light"? Can anyone make it through Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" without anticipating the final, booming chorus?

Aside from the obvious well-worn choices (cue anything by The Beatles), the following list of great romantic classics will certainly heat up your Valentine's Day this month.

10 "Alone" —*Heart*

In today's pop-obsessed music industry, listeners rarely meet a voice that simply aches – particularly one with the piercing range of Ann Wilson. Her lead vocal still sounds lonely today on this ode to unrequited lust. She admits, "You don't know how long I have wanted to touch your lips and hold you tight." It's the anticipation of the first kiss that means more than the world to lovers that long and this 1987 chart-topper from the sister-in-song group captures that desperation better than any other.

9 "Whatever You Need" —*Tina Turner*

Let's face it: anything without a tight, short skirt and high, black heels has never really been added to Turner's most memorable performances. Aside from her searing turn (and arguable improvement) on Al Green's "Let's Stay Together", her chart successes have mostly steered clear of somber touches. But the second single from her 2000 disc *Twenty Four Seven*, perfectly couples Turner's well-known spiritual side with a sultry flare and a mature take on romantic notions.

8 "You're in My Heart" —*Rod Stewart*

Chalk up his recent *songbook* success up to good marketing. Stewart is a rocker at heart and his laid-back 1978 ballad is a modest, youthful and perhaps even naïve pronouncement of his feelings. It only shines brighter when contrasted with later, more-blatantly sexual hits like "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?"

7 "I'll Always Love You" —*Taylor Dayne*

She is perhaps one of the few voices that can stop even the most cynical gay man in his tracks. Deemed the *Rapunzel of Rock* in the 1980s for her flamboyant hair style, Dayne achieved a Grammy nomination in the R&B vocal category for her soulful take on this tune—not to be confused with the similarly-titled, but much less sensual, Whitney classic.

6 "Eternal Flame" —*The Bangles*

At some point in the early 2000s, critics agreed enough time had lapsed that this gem of 1980s cheese went from laughable little love song to romantic giant. The girl group—and oft gay pride headliners—never topped the international success of this restrained ballad, which hit #1 on both sides of the Atlantic.

5 "No Matter What" —*Boyzone*

Years after Boyzone topped UK charts with this contribution to the smart Hugh Grant-Julia Roberts vehicle Notting Hill, the single's romantic lyrics adopted a much more gay-friendly slant. Words such as "I can't deny what I believe, I can't be what I'm not" took on a whole new meaning after group member Stephen Gately's widely publicized coming out.

4 "Let's Make Love" —*Faith Hill and Tim McGraw*

There's something truly captivating about two beautiful people in love. Hollywood has banked on it for decades, but this country couple has certainly capitalized as well. The black and white video for their Grammy-winning vocal match is so sexy, so intimate that Hill has often commented the shoot felt intrusive. Lucky us.

3 "Do You Want to Dance?" —*Bette Midler*

Perhaps it's her melodramatic persona, but Midler's best recordings have always been her overtly flirtatious ones. This 1972 hit is not a loud roof-raiser, like so many of her other fan favorites. Instead, the song's buoyant, breathy charm is what makes it undeniably sexy.

2 "At Last" —*Etta James*

With all due respect to Cyndi Lauper, Christina Aguilera and other divas who've covered it since James' 1961 version of this love song is truly the only one listeners need to hear to fully understand the triumphant glory of finding a perfect match. "You smiled and then the spell was cast," she croons. The words are simple, effective and so very true.

1 "Let's Get It On" —*Marvin Gaye*

Usher should just give up now. Forget Brian McKnight and John Legend too. No male R&B songsmith has ever come close to the raw sensuality of Gaye's classic. Aside from confessions like "My whole body is in love", the song is full of soft oohs and ahs in all the right places.

Honourable Mentions: "By Your Side" —*Sade*, "Get Here" —*Oleta Adams*, "Come Away With Me" —*Norah Jones*.



Songs Sung Blue

Perhaps you're more of the cynical set—the ones that profess Valentine's Day is only for the easily-fooled and lovesick—not to mention those often separated from their hard-earned cash. Here are a few tracks that prove love isn't all puppy noses and cat tails.

10 "Irreplaceable" —*Beyoncé*

Her post-Destiny's Child singles have not always been even but this third release off Beyoncé's 2006 set B'Day is a girl-power anthem if there ever was one. The catchy hook—"To the left, to the left, everything you own in a box to the left"—reminds a did-wrong lover that he is easily sent packing.

9 "Breathe Again" —*Toni Braxton*

Braxton was feted with the third of six Grammy Awards for this understated R&B hit. While the song is melodically appealing, the lyrics are nothing short of suicidal: "Please understand if love ends, then I promise you, I promise you, that I shall never breathe again."

8 "I Wish It Would Rain Down" —*Phil Collins*

Even Eric Clapton's guitar solo starts the song off with a mournful tone. Collins' dramatic single from his triumphant...*But Seriously* disc is an insightful look at the haunting nature of regret.

7 "Baby, Can I Hold You?" —*Tracy Chapman*

Chapman is one of America's foremost melancholy performers, one with a penchant for heartbreak and loss. Her 1988 smash expresses incredible frustration as a lover wallows in resignation. "Sorry, is that all you can say?" she asks repeatedly—sadly.



6 "Nothing Compares 2 U" —*Prince featuring Rosie Gaines*

The Purple One began performing his self-penned tune in performances after it rose to prominence as a hit for Sinead O'Connor, but his 1993 live rendition introduces a powerful female voice and makes the song a rousing, if depressing, duet.

5 "Stay (I Missed You)" —*Lisa Loeb*

She holds the odd distinction of being the only performer to achieve a #1 hit in the US without a recording contract, but Loeb used her pensive lyrics and quirky image to create a classic track and video. Too bad it didn't get her the guy.

4 "Missing You" —*John Waite*

Ah, irony. Perhaps the saddest of the plethora of 1980s power ballads, Waite's "Missing You" seemed like a triumphant call for singles to those that never bothered to look closer. The song, in fact, betrays its own defiant sensibility. "I ain't missing you, no matter what my friends say," he announces. We know better.

3 "Who Let in the Rain?" —*Cyndi Lauper*

Lauper's lyrical poetry in the 1980s and 1990s was often overshadowed by her wacky hair colours. "I envy lovers passing by, out on the street, because what they have, I couldn't keep," she sings in this poignant 1993 single. It's the perfect example of a beautifully-crafted pop treasure that was under-promoted and, therefore, largely ignored.

2 "Insensitive" —*Jann Arden*

It's hard to argue the inherent sadness of a performer's songs when she titles her own best-of collection *Greatest Hurts*. Arden's only hit south of the border, "Insensitive" was one of her few singles written by someone else. The song's words—"I really should have known by the time you drove me home...you might have some advice to give on how to be insensitive"—are stinging, without a whiff of sentimentality.

1 "I Can't Make You Love Me" —*Bonnie Raitt*

Raitt kills us with one remark: "I'll close my eyes and then I won't see, the love you don't feel when you're holding me." It's the saddest declaration of all—a long-neglected partner grasping to memories, not ready to let go. It is, quite simply, heartbreaking.

Honourable Mentions: "Crying" —*Roy Orbison featuring k.d. lang*, "Kissing a Fool" —*George Michael*, "We Belong Together" —*Mariah Carey*. ▼

Josh Murray is a freelance writer who divides his time between New York and Vancouver. For more information, visit joshmurray.ca.

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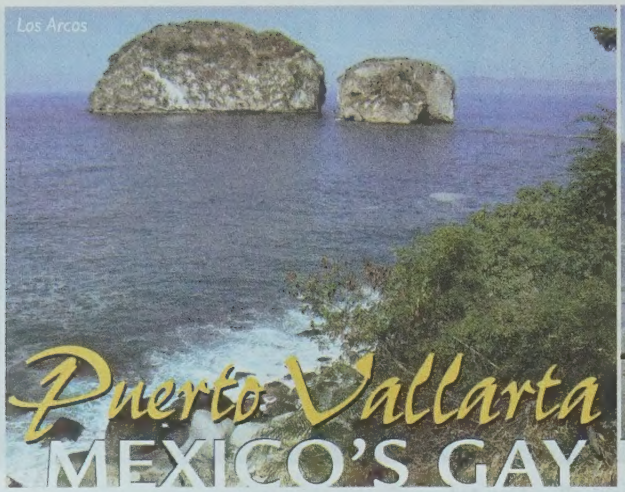
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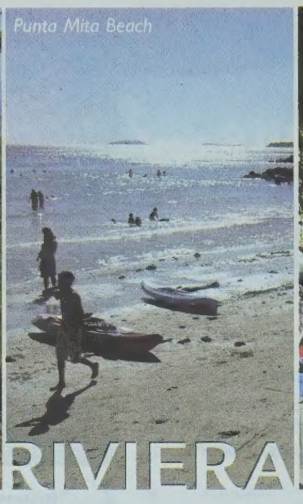
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Puerto Vallarta
MEXICO'S GAY RIVIERA

By Roy Heale

Often when we think of gay icons, whether they are straight or gay, we recognise them for a sole contribution to the GLBT community. Such is not the case with Dame Elizabeth Taylor. When being out and gay was considered a career disaster she is renowned for supporting her Hollywood closeted gay friends and co-stars like Rock Hudson, Montgomery Clift and James Dean. But mostly she is acclaimed for her brave stance in speaking out for AIDS awareness in the early eighties when everyone else in Hollywood was afraid to even mention the plague's name. You might well ask, so what is the connection between our dear Liz and a small Mexican coastal town named Puerto Vallarta?

Early in the sixties when Liz and Richard Burton were at the height of their steamy, on-again/off-again romance, Burton was starring in the John Huston movie *Night Of The Iguana*, which was being filmed in and around Puerto Vallarta. Liz visited the set to be with her new beau and jointly they fell in love with the peaceful coastal communities. So much so that they purchased side-by-side homes and connected their properties with a bridge. The global media attention attracted by the movie production and the famous lovers resulted in Puerto Vallarta becoming the newest *in* spot for vacationers to discover. This focus on the beautiful Mexican coastline in and around Puerto Vallarta put it on the map and the result forty years later is the tourism boom of today. Especially because every time Liz and Dick had a lover's spat the hot-headed Taylor tore down their connecting bridge which only led to more media hype.



Gradually, Puerto Vallarta became affectionately known as PV and over the last decade it has evolved into an extremely popular gay vacation village. Thanks again, Liz, for giving the gay community another safe haven in a tumultuous world.

Today, PV is the Mexican city with the most tourist return visits and after your first time here you will understand why. During my stay I met numerous Canadian gay travellers and, in fact, one Albertan was on his seventh trip to PV in the past twelve months. If only one could have that kind of time and money!

Call it Old Town, Zona Romantica, Olas Altos or Los Muertos—it's the hub of gay activity in this ocean bay city. Cobbled streets, white stucco architecture, red-tiled roofs, sidewalk cafes, sandy beaches, boardwalk restaurants together have created the romance of PV's gay village.

The gay beach at Playa los Muertos in front of the Blue Chairs Resort is the busiest gay spot during the daylight and is recognised as the gathering place to soak up the rays and cool down in clear blue waters with white surf. The rooftop pool and bar also provides a great venue to watch the sunset and enjoy early evening cocktails.



The gay nightlife is renowned for being very late—well past midnight—but in fact, in the more than twenty bars the revelry starts at sunset and continues when the clubs open, some of which don't close until six in the morning on weekends. In other words, start to party whenever you please and finish with the sunrise if that appeals.

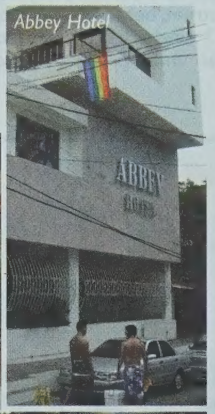
Everything is within walking distance and dinner on the beach is literally at a table on the sand if you choose, or at a sidewalk café along Olas Altas.

The Kit Kat Club offers an eclectic menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner providing all day dining which is perfect for whenever the hunger pangs strike. Cafe La Terraza located on the road to the gay beach offers an inexpensive, hearty all day breakfast that's perfect for those late night owls.

Langostinos on the beach serves some of the freshest seafood or on Olas Altas Anthony's offers excellent Italian favorites. A real inexpensive treat is Mama Dolores Diner for American staples served with laughter and entertainment. The unpretentious Café Tizoc guarantees your Mexican favorites at affordable prices. Whatever you desire on any given night, it is available within a short walk. Dining is a relaxing part of the day at a guaranteed leisurely pace. A simple evening stroll around the village offers a multitude of choices from elegant to casual dining feasts.

In the evening, the bars and their patios come alive, offering a variety of atmospheres and choices with reasonably priced cocktails.

In the centre of town on Olas Altas, the popular Canadian-owned Apache's Martini Bar and Bistro serves you with a smile and cheerful style. A round of applause is in order when a surprise cloudburst sprinkles rain on the patio patrons signifying a rare event worthy of celebration in this sunny resort. They also offer simple and reasonably priced appetizers and entrees for those early evening cocktail munchies. This month, Apache's celebrates their tenth anniversary and it's very easy to understand their longevity and success.



The centrally located Garbo is a quiet, intimate bar with background jazz music and occasional live performers. Sama is a sidewalk martini bar with great drink specials all night long. An evening stroll along the famous Malecon (boardwalk) to Cheeky Monkey, the gay nightlife's newest addition, will be rewarded with a third floor view of the sunset and some of the lowest drink prices in town.

The Gay Guide Vallarta is the best source of details about all that gay PV has to offer and is readily available online at **gayguidevallarta.com** or the printed version can be found at almost every business in the gay district.

Not surprisingly there are many choices for gay accommodations. These range from condominium rentals, hotels, resorts, B&Bs and smaller inns. Almost all are centrally located in the gay neighbourhood and within walking distance to the gay beach and nightlife.

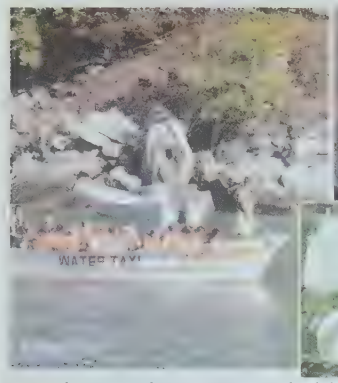
The Boana Torre-Malibu condo-hotel is just up the hill from the gay beach and offers spacious one-bedroom apartments with kitchenettes at affordable prices. The Hotel Mercurio is located in the heart of town, close to Olas Altas, with beautiful rooms, a courtyard pool and cocktail bar. Nearby is the larger Abbey Hotel, a new addition to PV's reasonably priced accommodations, providing large rooms with balconies, a swimming pool, lobby bar and restaurant. Be sure to make your reservations well in advance of your trip as this gay resort's increasing popularity results in "sold-out" periods.

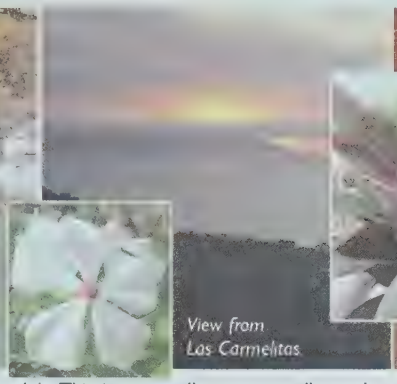
An important travel tip for PV is to be prepared for the fact that many establishments do not accept any credit cards. Cash is the only method of payment in many bars and restaurants.

While the sun, surf and nightlife make for a perfect and romantic vacation, you may want to explore the region to find out why Liz and Dick fell in love with everything surrounding the town and made it one of their homes for several years.

Heading out to sea, Diana's Tours has served the gay community with ocean cruising for seven years. Her onboard and beach parties are part of the PV gay legend. They include breakfast, lunch, a beach stop, snorkeling, swimming and of course an open bar for cocktails. This season she has added a gay whale watching half-day tour. As the Banderas Bay is a mating place for whales, I have it on good authority that a whale sighting is almost guaranteed, but I'm not sure how you identify the gay ones.

If you prefer a more intimate personal guided tour then Gloria's Tours (GloHarris2001@yahoo.com or 1-818-206-0461) will customise an excursion to suit





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your desires within your own schedule. This is an excellent way to allow a local to sit behind the wheel (and after first-hand observations of the Mexican drivers this a must) and recount the history or describe the sights, which will make your vacation complete with rich local colour and anecdotes. This is perhaps the best way to get to know this coastal and mountainous paradise with your own agenda and at your own pace.

When you head south the coastal road takes you past the spectacular Los Arcos peaks where the mountains rise up from the ocean floor creating island sanctuaries.

Along the same road don't be afraid of the Fruit Checkstop. You won't be arrested, but apparently it's illegal to carry fresh produce from one county to another! Leave your bananas in the hotel room.

Further south at the fishing village of Mismaloya, you can take a water taxi to the spectacular secluded beaches of Colomitos, Las Animas, Quimixto (with its spectacular waterfalls) and Yelapa. These beaches can only be reached by boat and as such will afford you privacy, allowing you to escape the crowds. If peace and quiet is what you are looking for then this is heaven.

Just a little further south you will reach Chico's Paradise and Chimo's Paradise. These are both perfect for the outdoor adventurers with horse-back riding, hiking, rock climbing, canopy tours, waterfalls, swimming holes and much more for a perfect escape from city life. This is also the location for much of the filming of John Huston's movie that made the area famous.

If you choose to head north from PV, the coastal road will offer a visit to the large boat marina, an exchange with crocodiles in their natural habitat and a beautiful beach at Punta Mita. Here you can dine on fresh barbecued seafood from the catch of the day while watching the gentle blue ocean come and go.

Heading inland on a safari experience to the remote and authentic old Mexican villages that lie on the edge of the Sierra Madre Mountains, amidst the jungle it is possible to experience local culture. Enjoy hand-made corn tortillas, visit an organic coffee house, meet local artisans and enjoy spectacular views of the mountains.

No matter what makes a perfect holiday in your own mind, PV and environs offer everything from simple beach relaxation to adventurous outdoor activities.

For the last night of your vacation, an absolute must is dinner at Las Carmelitas. This naturally beautiful restaurant and bar is over two thousand feet above the city of PV with a spectacular view of the townsite and Banderas Bay. It's a short but hair-raising ten-dollar cab ride on a rough mountain road with the richest rewards at the peak. From here the blue sky slowly changes hues into the orange sunset followed by darkness illuminated only by the stars and the fairy lights cluster of the city by night. This is an experience guaranteed to make you one of the many gay tourists that return again and again.

Puerto Vallarta is deserving of its reputation as Mexico's romantic new riviera for the gay traveller. You won't be disappointed, I promise. ▼

Roy Heale has been the owner of SuperMarketing for the past twenty-three years and is the founder and publisher of Outlooks magazine. He is also a member of the Travel Media Association of Canada.


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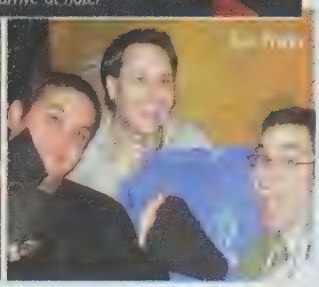
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Canadian University Queer Service Conference
–Jan 12-14 at University of Manitoba

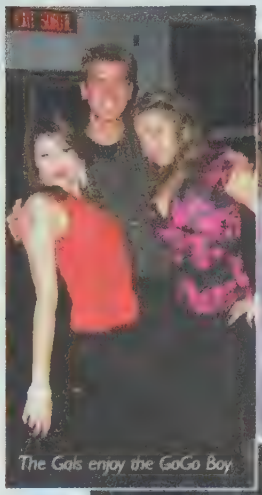



Montreal delegation arrive at hotel




Carleton & Bishops enjoy a meal together

The new Queer Tuesday Nights
–Jan 9 at Touché Bar


The Gals enjoy the GoGo Boy


Hot Boys at Touché


Bars and Bartender

Planning an event in Ottawa?
Contact Jeremy at jersvision@yahoo.ca and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.

Police Liaison Annual Public Meeting
–Jan 15 at City Hall





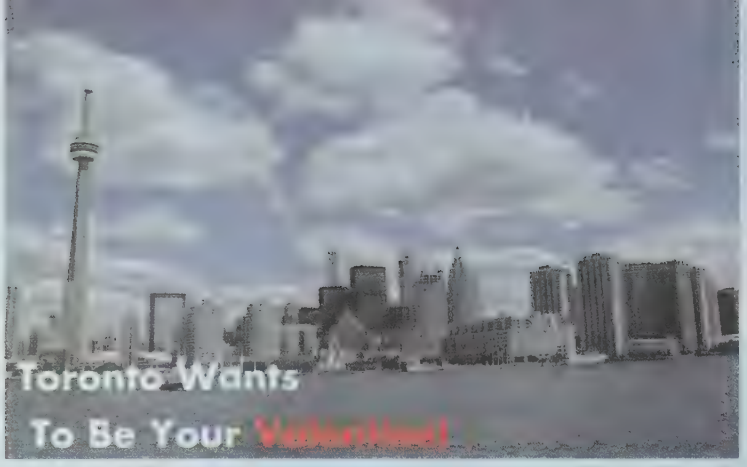


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By Doug Ross

Step right up and be flirty, or be dirty…but just don't be shy! In fact we'd be especially thrilled if you decided to get downright familiar with us since we're craving some attention. And besides…who doesn't like to be noticed by that special someone on that special day of love? That's right, Valentine's Day is here and we sure hope that you will be too because we've been feeling kind of overlooked lately. And why is that? Well…with a recent admission from Tourism Toronto that they'd dropped the ball with regard to promoting our proud city directly to the lesbian and gay market…and with a new survey adding insult to injury by revealing that Toronto lagged behind Vancouver and Montréal as a preferred gay tourist destination…let's just say that our ego has been sadly bruised. And since a bruised ego is about the only thing that can't be auctioned on eBay these days, it appeared that a shake-up was needed pronto! Thankfully, Tourism Toronto has vowed to make attracting a larger segment of gay travelers to our city a priority, and its strategy to partner with Pride Toronto is certainly a step in that direction. But why wait for those summer festivities to begin? Instead, let me arouse your interest with some of this month's cultural events and community activities that are worth checking out…and also whet your appetite with a few hot restaurant ideas for Valentine's Day that are sure to make for some memorable meals!

To begin with, the 28th Rhubarb Festival of new Canadian theatre will take place at Buddies In Bad Times. This diverse festival that nourishes artists and audiences alike, will premiere nearly two-dozen new works by burgeoning scenesters from Feb 1 – 19. The inspiring line-up of performances promises to be daring, inventive and lots of fun too, so come on out and support queer culture. Now admittedly with such an eclectic mix of material on offer, perhaps not all shows will be surefire winners, but with conveniently priced nightly, weekly or festival passes available…how could you possibly lose?

Now for the two readers out there who didn't already know, Toronto has one of the most vibrant leather and fetish scenes to offer! With major events like Spearhead's annual fundraiser, Fantsay Ball taking place on February 18, you certainly won't be alone after you hit town if you attend this very popular party. Spearhead is a leather and denim social club that has been in existence since 1970, and it has proudly been serving the gay community by bringing together those individuals who share the same interests—and who amongst us doesn't love a guy that smells like a brand new car? And if you're really into "chaps who wear chaps", then be sure to cruise into the notorious bar, The Black Eagle while you're here—but don't say that I didn't warn you!

The Central Toronto Youth Services proudly claims that its Pride & Prejudice Program was the first to offer counseling and support to queer and trans teens/young adults within our city, and this charitable organization's mandate to empower youth and change lives in a positive way is definitely worth commending. Luckily for its audiences, their Gender Play is back again by popular demand. So let's hear a round of applause for this unique group as it explores the topic of gender identity via writing, movement and art…and then stages a play based on those collaborative experiences.

And beginning its local run on Feb. 15 is the Toronto premiere of Elegies: A Song Cycle in which Tony award winner, William Finn pays tribute to relatives, friends and the victims of 9/11. This hilarious and very poignant musical journey explores the modern world that we live in, and life's infinite joys. Featured among the stellar cast is "drop dead gorgeous" local talent, Thom Allison! His handsome face, brilliant smile and hunky bod will be on display which is a good thing…but it will be his amazingly inspirational singing voice that will really leave you cheering for more, so do not miss this show!

February 22 – 27 this exceptional showcase of dance companies from Tokyo, Berlin, New York, Montreal and Toronto will feature rarely seen traditional dances to cutting edge contemporary forms that will visually be "poetry in motion".

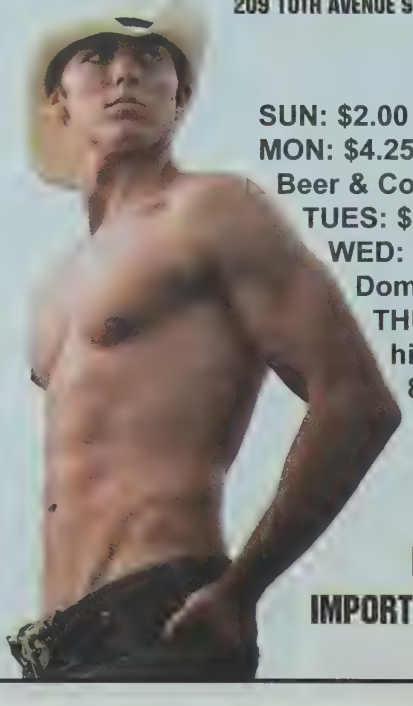
Okay…time now to grab a bite…and located in the heart of the gaybourhood is Kaiseki-Sakura, the very upscale eatery that was just voted Toronto's #1 new restaurant! The unique menu items along with the beautiful presentation of those dishes, offers each diner a genuine feast for their senses. So be prepared to spend some quality time (and quality bucks too) for an exceptional dining experience that you won't soon forget. Reservations are a must or you and your Valentine sweetheart will be left out in the cold! Other delicious village eateries that are always popular for romantic twosomes are: Byzantium, Il Fornello, Sambucas On Church, and Hair Of The Dog. Or just a quick cab ride away, are two really fun dining alternatives…celebrating its fifteenth anniversary is the funky/glamourous, Mildred Pierce with its bustling atmosphere, scrumptious meals and an affordable, global wine list. Then finally, believe it or not, the kitschy/cool revolving restaurant, 360 at the top of the CN Tower has been gaining in popularity with the gay crowd…and it's not just because it resembles the world's largest erection either! No, it's simply because as you and your date enjoy the elegantly prepared meals and fine wines, you'll also enjoy the spectacularly breathtaking views of the city and of Lake Ontario from 1,200 feet up! How romantic to gaze at each other…and literally see twinkling stars!

Now remember…don't be shy. We're here for you—all month long! ▼

Doug is a busy producer/casting director within the Toronto entertainment industry. He has just been contracted to ghostwrite a book for a locally-based television personality.

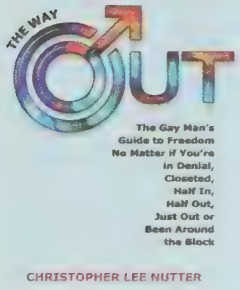
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THE WAY
OUT
The Gay Man's Guide to Freedom No Matter If You're in Denial, Closeted, Half In, Half Out, Just Out or Been Around the Block
CHRISTOPHER LEE NUTTER

Book Review

The Way Out
Christopher Lee Nutter
Health Communications, Inc, 2006

By Dale Smith

I wasn't quite sure what to expect from a gay self-help book, but the book promised to be more than just another coming-out manual, so I gave it a chance. *The Way Out* bills itself as "The gay man's guide to freedom, no matter if you're in denial, closeted, half in, half out, just out or been around the block," which is a lot of ground to cover. And Nutter does cover a lot of that ground.

Nutter, a freelance journalist who first came out at age twenty-four in an editorial in *Details Magazine*, takes the readers on his personal journey from the closet to a sort of transcendental state that he describes as moving beyond his sexuality. Nutter repeatedly says that while his journey will not be the same as anyone else's, he does tend to take an authoritative tone with his subject matter that suggests that his particular journey is perhaps the more authentic one, which is a tone that did bother me as I read the book.

The first chapter deals with the coming out process, which was a lengthy section of the book. Having survived my own coming out process relatively intact, I didn't find much of what Nutter said to be particularly helpful, but perhaps someone who is still in the early stages of their own process will find more value in what he has to say.

The middle sections of the book were what I found most fascinating, as Nutter goes about deconstructing the notions of identity that we have built around ourselves, and the kinds of masks that we wear in everyday life. He then goes on to break down our behaviours into two basic elements—love and pain, and notes that most of our behaviours are actually responses to pain—either to anaesthetise it, or avoid it. In many ways, Nutter quite cleverly breaks down a lot of self-destructive behaviours from drug abuse, to promiscuity, to excessive neediness and co-dependent behaviour all as patterns which fit the love-pain dichotomy, in such that way Nutter shows himself to be rather insightful.

But for as much as Nutter has his moments of insight, his method of putting those down on paper can make for a frustrating read. One problem is that Nutter trades largely in the stereotypes found in New York's gay scene, which does not make for easy access to anyone outside of it. While Nutter may have journalistic credentials, his writing style tends to be overly didactic, and he puts complex issues into simplistic tones. This is perhaps the most frustrating element of the book—Nutter's prescriptions for overcoming various deeply ingrained problems are far too simplified. Most of all, what Nutter seems to avoid completely, is any kind of discussion of process. It's all well and good to tell someone to change that behaviour in response to that motivation. He doesn't even give anything in the way of suggestions as to ways that people can find a process, be it through therapy, or meditation, or bodywork. Indeed, there was a single reference in the whole of the book to Nutter's own therapist, which gives a hint as to his own process, but the fact that he doesn't talk about it makes it seem that much more inaccessible to the reader.



Toward the end of the book, Nutter seems to stray further away from useful advice and moves more into metaphysical territory, which is the point at which he started to lose me as a reader—not because I don't agree with his assertions, because in most cases I do. Rather, he lost me because he became too involved in the metaphysical aspect of his lessons, and neglected to stay grounded enough in our present reality. The most notable example was his brief chapter on homophobia, which seemed too divorced from some of the real truths out there, simply because his own personal experiences were not that bad. As with Nutter's use of stereotypes, he doesn't seem to grasp the realities that many gay men who live outside of New York have to face on a daily basis.

While the book has its share of problems, it does have a lot of good and interesting things to say about human behaviour in a gay context. For that, it was largely a worthwhile read. I would say to read it with a grain of salt, however, and an eye for using Nutter's lessons as suggestions or guideposts on anyone's personal journey while one finds a process that best suits them to deal with the issues raised. ▼









What a novel idea

By Ralph Higgins



Denis-Martin Chabot is a man who follows his passions, both professionally and personally. As a journalist he has travelled extensively for Radio Canada and his documentaries on health care, justice and human rights have earned him numerous awards. In 1997, his report on a Canadian given the death penalty in Texas was nominated for a Gemini.

But, during the same time as he was establishing a reputation as a journalist, Chabot was devoting his free time to another passion: writing novels. As a teenager in Québec City, he was interested in theatre and creative writing and was a member of his high school drama group. But when the time came to choose a career Chabot decided that he needed to find a more solid way of earning a living and opted to study journalism at Carleton University. He focused on his new career and, after a stint as reporter in Toronto, he obtained a post with Radio Canada in Edmonton. While there, he took a writing course at the University of Alberta's Collège Saint-Jean to improve his skills as a reporter. The course reawakened his desire to write fiction.

He began to write plays, which were performed as public readings in Edmonton and Saskatoon. During the same period Chabot began to explore the "deeper and more sinister" aspects of gay life, which would become the basis of his first novel.

Manigances (English title: *Tricks*) centres on the gay scene in Montréal in the early 1980s, as a group of men give free rein to their sexual appetites, while coming to terms with their emotional and psychological needs. The '80s were a time of innocence and freedom, but, as in any Garden of Eden, in *Manigances*, there is also a snake. Chabot's background as a journalist was an essential part of developing this part of the story as it was from actual news stories of sexual predators in Montréal and Toronto that *Manigance's* dark character, known simply as The Predator, was born. Chabot shifts easily from the factual to the fictional. "[T]his is liberating. When I write fiction, I am in total control of everything."

Manigances was self-published in 2003 and enjoyed success in Québec and overseas. It won the Prix Gros Sel in Belgium and was subsequently re-released by the French publishing house les Éditions Textes Gais.

Chabot says, "I wrote the first novel as a stand alone story, but there were a few chapters that did not fit. They required more development. My choice was to either write a 450-page long novel or two shorter ones.

Pénitence—Penance in English—a story that deals with the AIDS crisis in our community, came about." Chabot was inspired by the death of a close friend from AIDS, and by the struggle he and many of his acquaintance were having with relationships and their own internalized homophobia. "Writing fiction became an escape," he explains. "[A]lthough my novels are certainly not autobiographical, some of the feelings and emotions that my characters experience are certainly close to my own."

In 2000, Chabot was named national correspondent for Radio Canada for the Atlantic region and moved to Halifax, a change that would have important consequences in his personal and creative life.

"I had finished my two novels and I thought that was it, but then, came the war in Bosnia, the Canadian soldiers dying overseas, including a few soldiers I had met in the course of doing my TV reports. The attacks on New York and Washington and the war on Afghanistan inspired me. I felt that 9-11, as they call it in the US, brought the Gay rights movement backwards a few years in North America. It unleashed the right-wing evangelical movement and it took advantage of its renewed political power to work hard at reducing our rights. So, every time I heard that with 9-11 we had lost our innocence, I thought, yes, here's a sequel to my series, *Innocence*, that, I hope is going to be published in 2007."

Chabot took a sabbatical year from his job to finish the new manuscript and to begin the translation of *Manigances* into English. But, it was not all work, work, work. Online, Chabot met a man from Kingston, in the Annapolis Valley and when they got together in person, he fell for him, head over heels! "I had never experienced that before, falling in love. I did not believe in it. J'en ai perdu le souffle!" Breathless indeed! Denis-Martin's habitually smiling face becomes even more beaming when he speaks of Carl, his new life partner. "We cannot spend enough time together. We joke about being Kingston's premier gay couple."

Chabot brings his journalistic training and discipline to his creative writing, but he also admits to having some unique approaches to the process. "I keep old socks; you know the ones that end up alone after a wash, because the washer or the dryer steals one of the pair. I either draw eyes and a nose on them, or sew buttons to give them a face. They become my characters when I write dialogue in my books. I use them as puppets and they act out my dialogues to see if they work...You can just imagine when I write about a fight. My boyfriend never caught me doing this. Thank God! He might have left me then, on the spot!"

I asked Denis-Martin Chabot about future projects. His play, *L'Amant de Jacques*, is to be staged in France this year. "A director, Ambre Bacci, in Paris has put together a theatre group and they start rehearsals in the spring."

After his sabbatical year ends in April, he and Carl will move to Halifax and perhaps Montréal eventually. As for more immediate plans, like Valentine's Day, Chabot says, "I don't know yet. But we are quite creative. So, it will certainly involve candles, chocolates, music and … "

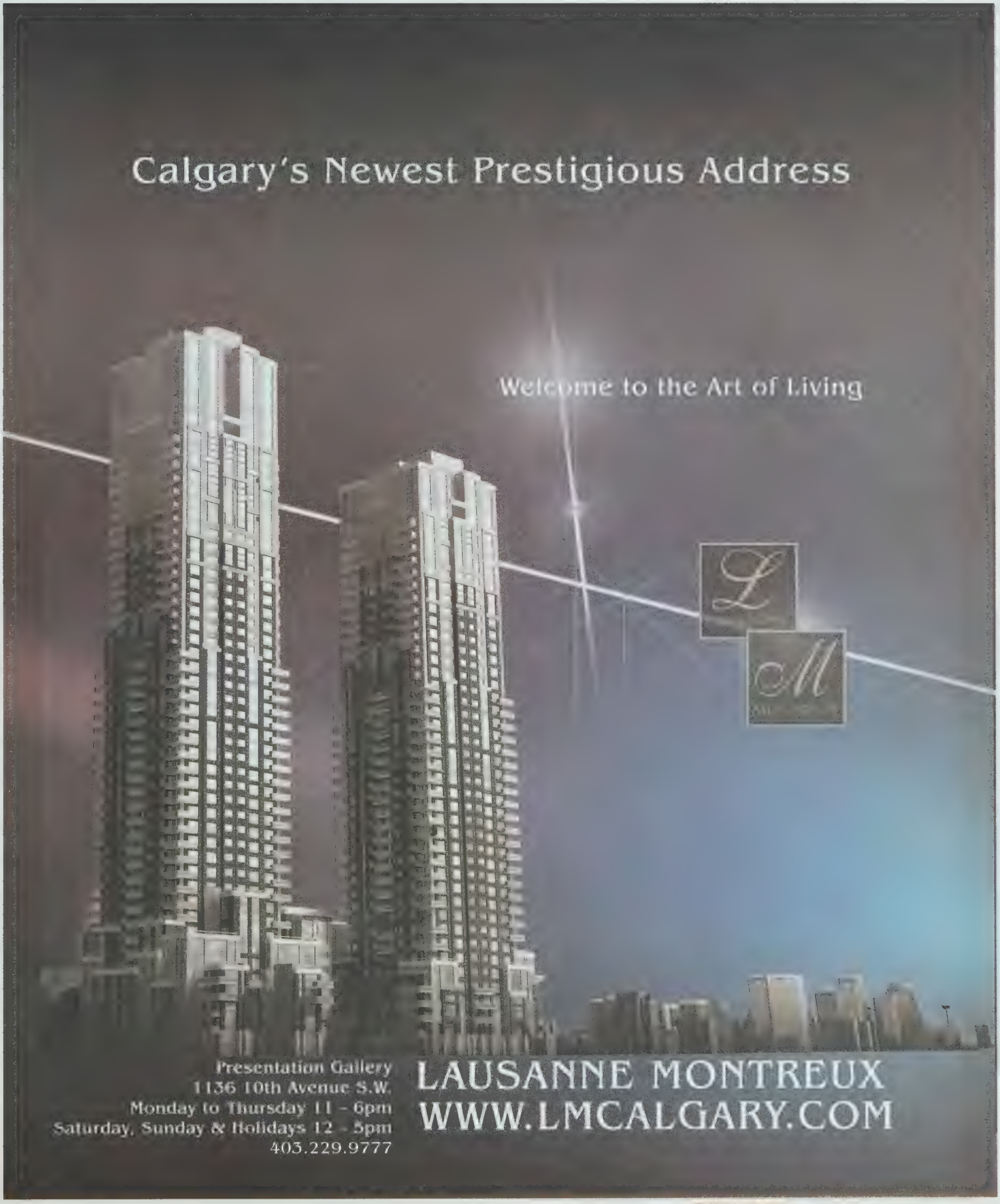
And sock puppets? I am tempted to ask. But then I decide that a man with Denis-Martin Chabot's passion and inventiveness probably doesn't need any suggestions. For further information visit: **denismartinchabot.com** ▼

Ralph Higgins is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.

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Extreme Fundraising

A Canadian student embarks on the biggest trek of his life

By: David King

Thanks to one inspiring youth, fundraising to fight HIV/AIDS is about to become an extreme sport.

This June, one hundred participants will race 250 K across the Gobi Desert. For some, it's ongoing training of Olympic proportions. For others, it's an extreme alternative to a marathon. And for others, like nineteen-year-old Canadian Andrew Liss, it's a way to fight for a worthy cause.

"The Stephen Lewis Foundation is grassroots and truly on the ground in Africa, making incredibly huge changes," says Liss of his favourite foundation. "They're doing such unbelievable things, there was no question for who to raise funds. There are now forty million people worldwide with HIV, and twenty-four and a half million are in sub-Saharan Africa alone. I think it's everyone's duty to try and fix this pandemic."

The 'Gobi March' is one of four annual world footraces hosted by Hong Kong-based Racing the Planet, an organization devoted to global outdoor events that provide new 'athletic frontiers'. Joined by his roommate Alex Sherman, Liss will become the youngest person ever to take on the challenge, and considering it's primarily elite athletes who participate, it's not something he takes lightly.

"I just got goose bumps thinking about that," he laughs. "But I want to inspire other kids to do the exact same thing—to push themselves, and go for it."



In Mongolian, 'Gobi' translates to 'very large and dry'. Asia's largest desert, the Gobi occupies an arc of land about 1,300,000 square kilometers, covering regions in both China and Mongolia. Despite misconceptions, much of the desert is not sandy but covered with bare rock. Accompanied by varying altitudes, unbearable temperatures and severe storms, it's a terrain that participants like Liss don't just run across.

"There are portions that have to be hiked, like mountains or sand dunes," describes Liss, "but it's all definitely speedy. Sometimes people finish within twenty-six to thirty hours, and it's spread out over a seven-day period."



Besides the Gobi, Racing the Planet organizes three other annual treks. This year it's the Atacama Crossing in Chile (the driest climate), the Sahara Race (the hottest), and the 'Last Desert' of Antarctica (of course, the coldest). A fifth event is in the works for Vietnam.

As Liss notes, the Gobi is the windiest of the four events, and notorious for its intense sandstorms, it calls for equally extreme gear. Every eight to ten miles, participants are given water and assessed by doctors before proceeding, with tents pitched for rest between journeys.

"There is a whole list of necessary gear," describes Liss, "like foot guards to prevent sand blisters, full-coverage hat, mask and eyewear, and zinc for dousing yourself. We carry a twenty-two pound bag to start off with as a self-supported race, but contents are strict, including the food items and calories you're allowed to carry and consume."

Unlike sponsored athletes, travel, gear and insurance costs come out of Liss' own pocket, and as he notes, it's a privilege he's able to afford while keeping an eye on donating all proceeds to the foundation. Both he and Sherman have already set up their fundraising campaign "Running For the Future", and a recent bar night with friends in Liss' native Toronto kicked things off with $2500 in donations. If all works out, Liss and Sherman hope to take on all four of Racing the Planet's events.

"By the end of three years we hope to raise a million dollars," says the energetic Liss. "We want to visit schools, give lectures, and raise awareness, so we're working with our school to put together a 5K race through Victoria, and we're hoping Stephen Lewis will speak at a dinner. We're inviting individuals, big companies or anyone who can help give us ideas for fundraising to contribute. Every bit of exposure helps."

The idea of their nineteen-year-old son 'exposed' to extreme sporting, hasn't been easy for Liss' parents, but he's confident they'll come around.

"I think they were quite annoyed and worried by the idea," says Liss. "I guess



they saw this as a little unrealistic at first, but now that they're starting to see the support, that things are materializing, I believe they'll be big supporters in the end. I come from a very philanthropic background, and as the next generation, I really feel like they taught me well. I'm the next generation, and it's time to step up to the plate."

Liss' 'rock' has come in the form of Sherman's brother Jon, his partner of close to five years and, as it turns out, his fiancée.

"Jon's been an absolute inspiration to me", says Liss. "He's a real canoe-tripper and also an avid outdoorsman, and along with some great road trips, we had a great time last summer in the Arctic exploring, camping, hiking and taking photos."

Though trekking 80K into Arctic glaciers is admittedly Liss' only daring adventure to date, he's an obvious nature lover, mentally prepped for one hundred degree weather, and with the upcoming race, he's hired a trainer to whip him into shape, including hardcore running and strength building for both distance and endurance.

"I totally had to change my teenage lifestyle around," Liss describes. "That meant staying drug-free, eating low-fat, and consuming lots of meats. But it was time to make a big change and put myself in the best condition I could be in." ▼

For more info on Liss' race or to sponsor the event, visit:

runningforthefuture.com

For info on Racing the Planet, visit: **racingtheplanet.com**

For info on the Stephen Lewis Foundation, visit: **stephenlewisfoundation.org**

Writer/director David King is the Artistic Director of Montreal-based OUT Productions (out.ca) and a freelance arts, culture and travel writer.

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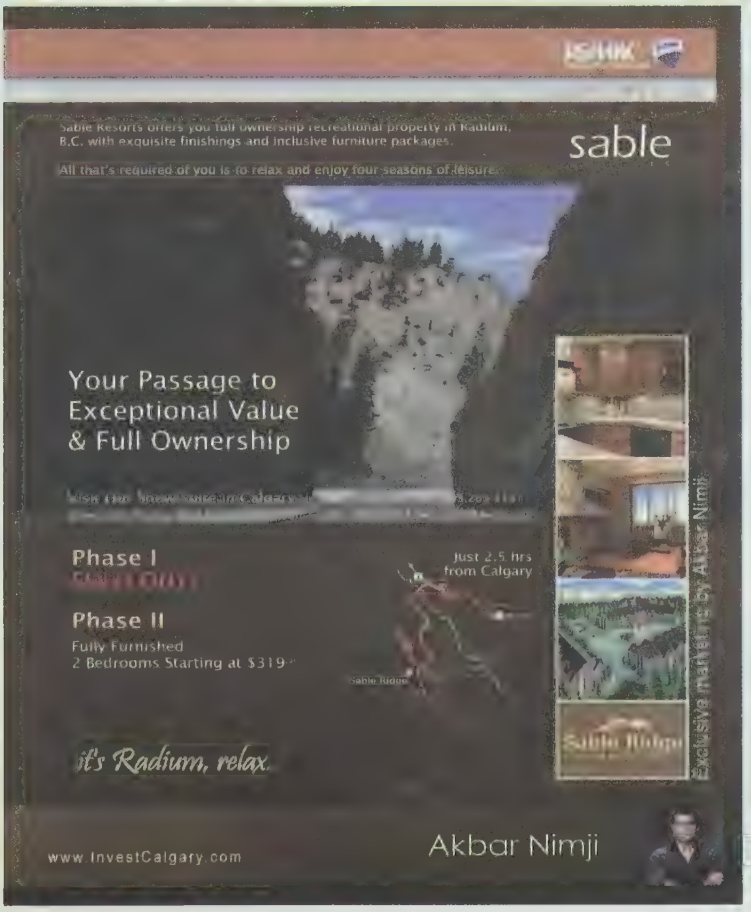

Bookstore sets


Donal


Jim Deva counsels a customer on the proper use of a mechanical

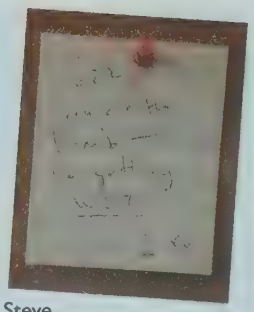


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OUT ON THE town



By Jesse Trautmann

Just past 9:30 p.m. Andrew arrives at my apartment for our traditional pre-drink before going out to a bar in the gay village for Valentine's Day. Steve makes him a drink and sits down beside Billy. Going out to play the 'V-day' game has become a tradition for the four of us, as we always, for one reason or another, were single on this particular day. In previous years, the pre-drink consists of complaining about men and declaring that the day was made for couples to celebrate their love. We all conclude that Valentine's Day only exaggerates the fact that we haven't found someone special and rubs the fact in our faces. We would resolve to stay in and watch Sex and the City DVDs, but every year, by 11 p.m. we always end up at the bar. Did we venture out every year because deep down we were optimists at heart or because we wanted more booze—who can say?

However, this year is different. Nobody's complaining and we are all eager to go out. Playing the 'V-day' game at the bar is like gambling—and over the years we have become addicted. Once a year, the bar sets up a few huge boards with hundreds of numbers on them. Upon arrival, you get a name tag sticker with a number on it to wear, which corresponds with a number on the board. Guys that are checking you out can see your number and write a short message ending with their number and have it posted for you on the board. Sounds simple enough, but sending and receiving notes is the easy part, finding the guy who sent it can be tricky. The bar is crowded and everyone is constantly moving around making the odds of matching a message number to a face virtually impossible. Yet, in spite of these obstacles, optimism is fueled by the excitement of unraveling the mystery and locating your secret admirer.

We arrive at the bar and get our numbers from a man sitting inside the door. I put mine on the breast of my shirt where it is nice and visible. I was number 622. Inside we go to the first bar and order drinks from a hot bartender on whom I have had a crush for years. The two of us flirt but I am quickly shuffled away by incoming party-goers trying to order drinks. Surprisingly, my friends and I find a table within minutes. Billy and Steve are off to strut their numbers with the rest of the tagged livestock waiting to be chosen. While guarding our table, Andrew tries to convince me that the bartender from earlier has glanced over multiple times and must have a crush on me. I wasn't so easily persuaded.

"I wish," I say, "But he's just doing his job. He probably flirts with everyone to make tips."

"Well, now's your chance to find out," Andrew says, "You should message him."

"He wasn't wearing a number, trust me I looked. I guess staff isn't allowed."

"The other bartender and the busboy have numbers. Why doesn't he? Andrew states.

"Obviously he has a boyfriend and is choosing not to get messages," I respond, "That's so sweet and yet so shitty at the same time."

Billy and Steve come back to the table with more drinks but no messages. We had just arrived so they send a few messages out, but nothing is on the boards for any of us yet. As we drink, Billy tells us about one guy he was eyeing but couldn't manage to see his number through the crowd. Just then, the guy passed us heading downstairs to the washrooms. True to form, Billy quickly seized the opportunity and followed the man down. Now it was my turn. Andrew and I leave the table to do our quick rounds. When we head back to the table, we could see Steve laughing hysterically at Billy. Apparently, down in the washroom, Billy went a little too far to get the number.

"I took the urinal beside the guy and kept leaning in to see his number. I thought I was being discrete about it but when I looked up he was shaking his head at me. He zipped up and started yelling at me in front of everyone calling me a floozy little pervert! Can somebody please change the subject?"

"Jesse got a message," Andrew said.

"Let me see it," Steve says grabbing it from me and read it aloud. "622, you are the bomb. I'm getting wet. 001 xo." After he finishes reading Steve looks up and continues to say, "It's from number one! That's has to be a sign."

"Yeah, that it's from some desperate twat who's been trolling around in here since the sun went down, hence he got the first number tag," Billy said.

"Sounds like love to me, go find him," Andrew says sarcastically.

After about an hour Billy's messaging pays off and he meets someone and takes off. Steve sees an ex and writes him a nasty message but forgets not to put his number on it, so has to take his off and hide at our table for the rest of the night to keep from being identified. Andrew and I get a few more messages but when we find the senders they are less than promising. The only guy I didn't find was number 01 and putting Billy's comment aside, I was disappointed because I had an odd but good vibe about this stranger.

It is getting late and with no good prospects, we decide to leave. We walk past the bartender I have a crush on, so I stop to say goodnight.

"Did you get any good messages? He asks.

"A few, but not from the person I wanted one from the most," I say with a wink. "So much for 'love in the air' on Valentine's Day."

The bartender seems to get slightly awkward as if he is offended.

"Don't worry, there are plenty of fish in the sea, I guess," he says.

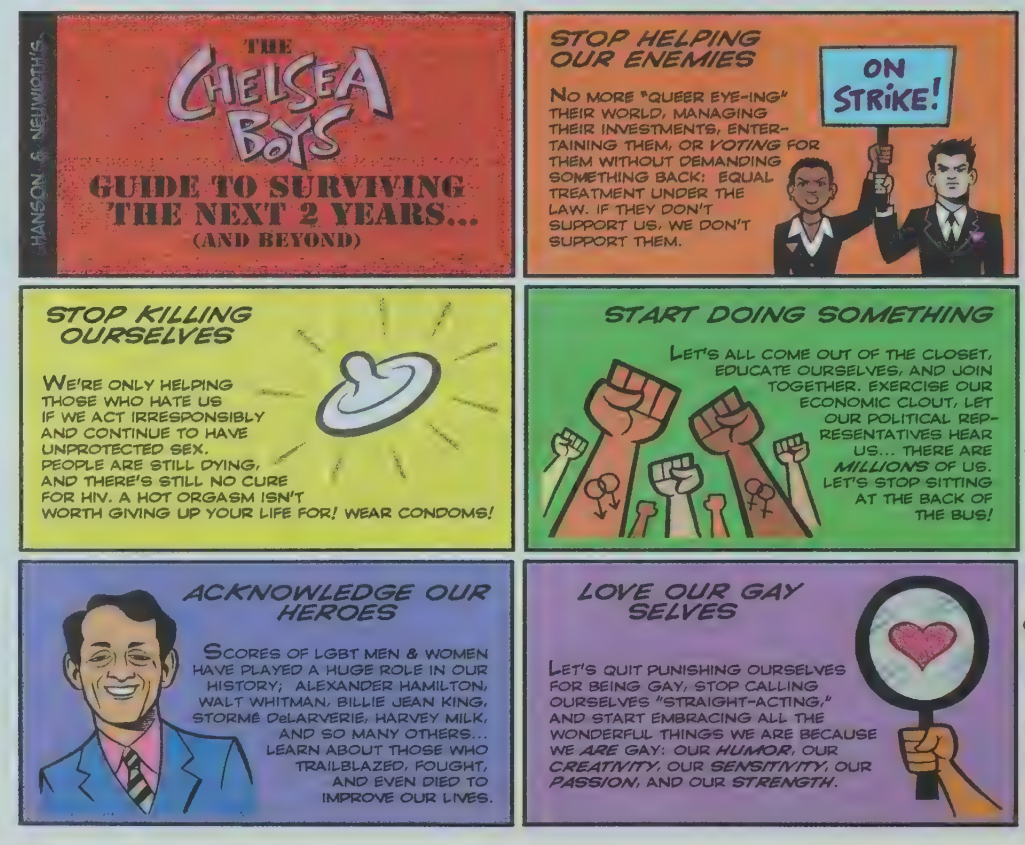
"Yeah well, I'm beginning to think there's a hole in my net," I respond.

He laughs and I run for the door to catch up to my friends.

The bartender walks back to where his bar back was counting the fridge. The bar back picks something off the floor and hands it to the bartender, "Your number tag must have fallen off." ▼

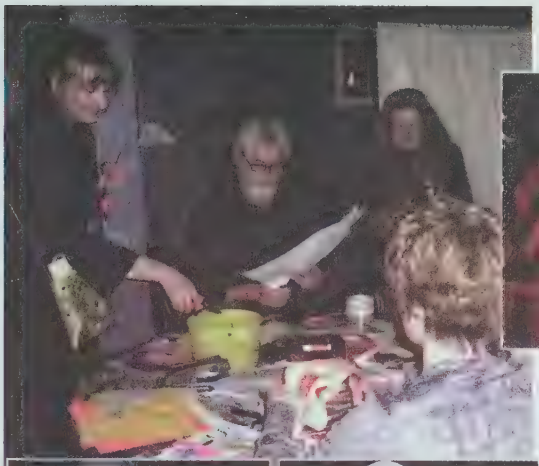
"Oh, thanks," says the bartender and puts it back on his chest. It reads 01.

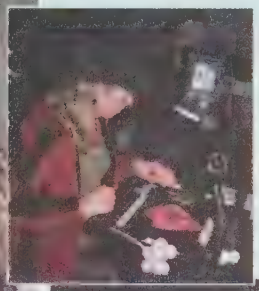
Jesse Trautmann is a twenty-six-year-old freelance writer in Toronto and a Journalism student at Ryerson. He welcomes feedback from readers. Contact him at jessetra@hotmail.com


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SCORES OF LGBT MEN & WOMEN HAVE PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN OUR HISTORY; ALEXANDER HAMILTON, WALT WHITMAN, BILLIE JEAN KING, STORMÉ DeLARVERIE, HARVEY MILK, AND SO MANY OTHERS... LEARN ABOUT THOSE WHO TRAILBLAZED, FOUGHT, AND EVEN DIED TO IMPROVE OUR LIVES.
LOVE OUR GAY SELVES
LET'S QUIT PUNISHING OURSELVES FOR BEING GAY, STOP CALLING OURSELVES "STRAIGHT-ACTING," AND START EMBRACING ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS WE ARE BECAUSE WE ARE GAY: OUR HUMOR, OUR CREATIVITY, OUR SENSITIVITY, OUR PASSION, AND OUR STRENGTH.
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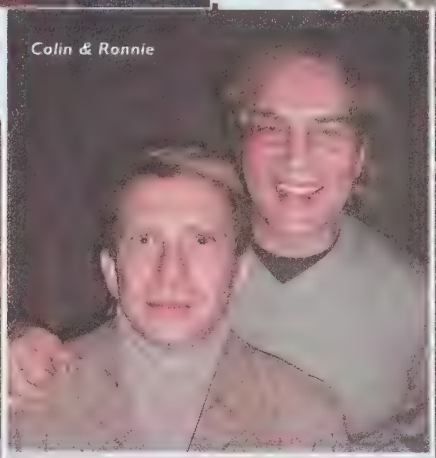


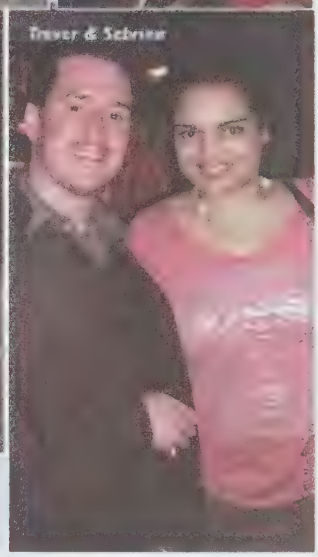












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HOROSCOPE

February will wrap itself around our hearts and promises love to the lovelorn, fun to the funlorn and glitter to the shopworn. Send Mars a smoochie valentine and get ready for your close-up, lover.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

February will be the time to put in the extra effort in your career. Even a small effort will have great impact. Senior staff will sit up and take notice. Who knows whom you can impress? Proud Rams are often too much energy for too little space. But now this is your secret advantage. Blow the lid off the place and let others pick up the pieces. You have bigger things to tackle.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls will not only be able to enjoy good times with various far flung friends, they will also be able to take their jolly show on the road to new and strange destinations. Mars will encourage you to travel extensively this February. Spread your love and cheer across the hemispheres to all comers. Hmmm, isn't that the way you usually work?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

What (or who) is stirring your soup this February? Pink Twins will have lots of extra oomph in their love life—and not a moment too soon. Mars will give you an extra jolt of sensuality where you can pursue and be pursued with equal vigor. Enjoy the valentines frenzy while you can and feast from many tasting trays. Too, too soon you will revert back to your usual finicky appetite.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If you yearn for a long term commitment, Mars will give you ample opportunity to find it this February. But don't go for the fast and cheap, tempting though it may be. Pink Crabs should carefully consider what is most important in a partnership and not compromise on the details. Plan your move with an eye to something with a longer shelf life, honey.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

If your desk is filled to overflowing with paper, tackle it now as Mars moves into Capricorn. Not only will you clear your path to accolades at work, you'll also feel less depressed about it. Proud Lions may dream of rowdy, fun times but their hours will be better spent on the nitty-gritty. As boring as it may sound, your valentine's month will be filled with jobs well done! Oh goodie.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

What is it about queer Virgins now that will get everyone's blood pumping? Maybe its because they sure know how to have a good gay time. Don't sit home and phone it in as usual. Hop on the party train and don't get off until the last stop. February will bring a light flirtation that can lead to a full-blown romance—and that is better than half!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

There'll be energy buzzing around your hive this valentine's month. Proud Libras are not only domestic divas; they are also adept at massive renovations and reconstructions. Have an idea? Whatever you want to see sitting on your plate, be sure to draw up the plans early and set things in motion. I bet it will be more than the usual stuffed bird. Or am I wrong...?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

You usually strive to be distant and diplomatic but as Mars moves into Cap, queer Scorps are apt to use their words to manipulate and control the group dynamic. This is not a bad thing. In fact you can use this talent to lure any valentine you choose into your lair. The trick will be to keep them there once they have entered. Have you tried rope? I mean champagne!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Ka-ching! Mars in Capricorn will make you a successful capitalist, at least for February. Toss off the chains of your thriftiness and enjoy life. Gay Archers may find that money becomes an intoxicating lubricant that greases the wheels of their love life. How much of it can you spread around without slipping and falling? Oh, you should be so lucky!

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Even the shyest of pink Caps cannot help but feel a loosey-goosey push when Mars moves into their sign. Not only do you become the center of attention, you yourself grab the limelight. What a nice change of pace. But don't strut and fret your hour upon the stage. Use this time to make several good connections and turn on a few new bulbs. Wear sunglasses to ward off glare.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians are not only comfortable in their own skin; they'll be apt to show it off this February. Don't get bogged down by others' expectations or fears. Don't be saddled with a bunch of old baggage. There is nothing as beautiful as confidence. You are sick and tired of hiding a bunch of secrets. Mars sez, "Let it all hang out and wave in the wind". Where's my camera?

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Mars in Cap will encourage you to be more sociable. You'll possibly discover something surprising or shocking about yourself in the process. Guppies can benefit from swimming in new social pools or increasing the depth of their current pond. Look up a few old friends this February. You never know what they might be up to... or underneath.

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Rainbow Airwaves



By Dale Smith

Canada posts another first, as *Proud FM* becomes the first twenty-four/seven commercial radio station in the world to broadcast for the GLBT community. The road from concept to full-fledged radio station, which is expected to go live at 103.9 FM in the Toronto area March 1, was a long but rewarding one.

It all began ten years ago when the Evanov Group applied to the CRTC for a radio license to serve the GLBT market. "At the time, the media wasn't quite ready for a gay station, and there was a lot more competition for the frequency, so they didn't get it at that time," says Sean Moreman, the station's news director. "They applied again in 2005, seeing that things have changed a bit, and that there was the same demand, if not more demand for a gay and lesbian station in Toronto, so they re-applied to the CRTC, and they got the licence which was awarded in April of 2006."

Originally the station had been pitched to the CRTC as "Rainbow Radio", but as the process continued, the decision came down to change the name to it's current one. "We thought that *Proud FM* was a more dynamic name that speaks to not only the station's achievement as having gotten the first licence in the world, but also to the feeling that our listeners will have about how far we've come on all sorts of issues," Moreman says. "This one only being one of many, being able to hit a point where we can have a whole radio station solely for our community."

The station's mandate is to give the community something they've been missing, namely a station that caters to their needs and interests, as they're different from the straight community. "The programming is a combination of music and some talk components," Moreman explains. "The music will be a wide range of music appealing to a wide range of people in the community, and the talk portion is really where you're going to see the queer content. The news will have gay-related topics that you won't get on other stations, the banter of the DJs will be stuff that you won't hear on other stations, either because those DJs don't understand it, don't live it, or their listeners aren't interested in it."

That range of music is planned to be a blend of a little of everything, but really making it a true pop station of yesteryear. "Towards the evening, the activity levels of the music will be higher, just to get people if they're planning on going out clubbing, especially on the weekend," Moreman says. "Otherwise there's going to be a good mix of music throughout the day. Our music director has done a pretty good job of putting songs back-to-back that you would think are incongruous, but once you hear them all together, there's a really good flow."

Said music director is Toronto singer/songwriter James Collins, who has been busy assembling the station's play list, and excited about the opportunity to program for such a unique station. One of the challenges he's been eagerly tackling is finding the mandated Canadian Content, and has found a treasure trove of hits that have since disappeared from the airwaves.

"We're going to have the best variety, and we're really going to mean it," Collins says. "Unlike other stations that say they have the best variety and play the same songs over and over."

"We'd like to keep it fairly upbeat and fun," Collins enthuses. "There are going to be some gems that pop up on the station that will put some smiles on peoples' faces in rush hour traffic. We're not going to play them every day, but I think people will be surprised when they hear them. And if it's not feel good, then it will make you feel."

In terms of finding 'out' gay and lesbian artists, Collins assures us that aside from the Pet Shop Boys, Elton John and k.d. lang songs that one would expect, there are a surprising number of out artists to choose from plus "A lot of European stuff that doesn't get played over here." One example is the UK's Pop Idol winner Will Young, "and there is one track of his that I cannot wait to play on the station." Young is one example of an artist that isn't getting radio play in North America. "Why not create a buzz for some of these songs that deserve to be heard? We have an outlet for that."

The station may also prove a good outlet for local gay and lesbian talent, providing the music fits the format. Collins immediately lists Toronto artist Gavin Bradley as one artist already on the play list.

The on air personalities are also something that the station has a lot to be proud of. "In the mornings, we've picked up Ken Kostick and Mary-Jo Eustace," Moreman says, referring to the duo formerly from *What's For Dinner?* Eustace has also been in the gossip pages lately as it was her former husband that Tori Spelling ran off with. "We're excited to have them on the air and to hear their banter back and forth and see where they are, so they're in the morning from six until ten. For the afternoon drive we've picked up Maggie Cassella, who people will know from both television and radio, and we're looking for her to put her spin on things, and I'm sure that she'll have lots of opinions that people will, if not agree with, at least find amusing because she's very, very funny. So we're looking forward to that for the way home." James Collins will also host a weekend show.

In addition to the news, the station will also feature some longer talk components, one of which is a series called *Voices* to be aired once a week. "It will have people in their own voice, first person, relating stories from gay history if you will," Moreman says. "For example, if we could find someone who was involved in the raids in the bathhouses here in 1981, if they could talk about their experience and what that was like, that'll be what the *Voices* segment will be like. That'll be about a half-hour of uninterrupted talk. But for the most part, it'll be a music station with banter and some features."

For people outside of the Toronto area, fear not—*Proud FM* will be available on the Internet, where they will be simulcasting from the Toronto broadcast, along with podcasting of features and newscasts. "We hope to have both the Internet aspect and even the on-air be very interactive, so that people can send in requests or download a podcast, just to really get involved in the station," Moreman says. "We want to make sure that people are getting what they want."

Into the future, there are definite plans to expand to other cities across Canada if it takes off, with Vancouver, Montréal, Halifax, Calgary and Ottawa all on the list. "As licences become available, we have every intention of going after them," Moreman assures us. We can hardly wait. ▼

For more information visit: **proudfm.ca**

Photo courtesy of Andrew McNaughton

Dale Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Ottawa. His work also regularly appears in Capital Xtra and Ottawa Xpress, and he has previously written for XY Magazine.

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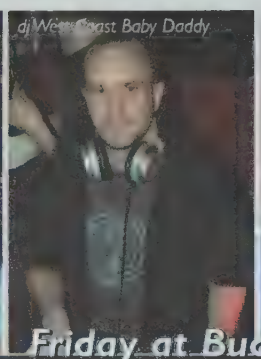
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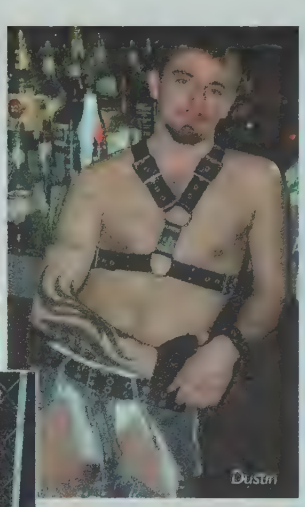
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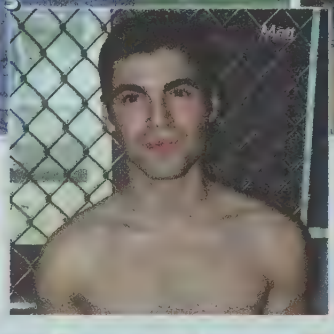

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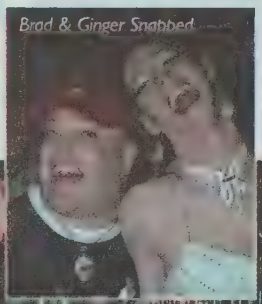

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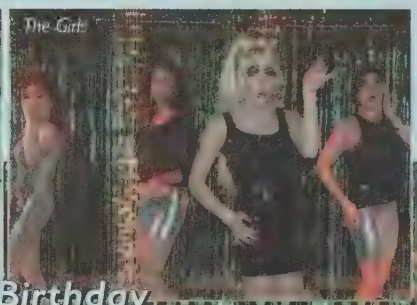
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Queer And Keeping The Faith

By Rick Pollard

Robin Osborne laughs when asked if the United Church of Canada is the "anything goes" denomination. It's a question she's heard before, and one for which the openly lesbian pastor of Regina's St. James United Church has a ready answer.

"It's an interesting statement. The United Church has taken very clear positions on a number of issues, all based on our religious principles, yet we're supposedly loose theologically. And it's true that we don't tell people what to think. In fact, we encourage people to think for themselves." She goes on to note that the New Testament was written two thousand years ago. "If you think of culture in one AD and contrast it with culture in 2006 AD, there has to be some recognition of all the new information we have, all that we have learned as humanity."

Most queer people would probably agree with those statements. Faced with prejudice, homophobia and a perspective on life that seems at odds with the realities of their lives, many gay and lesbian Canadians have turned their backs on organized religion.

Some have found it easy to sever all ties with institutions they equate with oppression and ignorance. But others find it difficult to deny such a fundamental part of themselves. Many try to negotiate an uneasy truce between their faith and their self-respect. But it's not always easy.

The United Church appears to be more progressive than most. A quick visit to the Church's website reveals the official policy of the Church with regard to same-sex marriage, for example: "We believe God intends loving relationships to be faithful, responsible, just, healing, and sustaining of the couple and those around them. These relationships may be between a woman and a man, or between people of the same gender." But rumours that all Church members believe that "anything goes" are greatly exaggerated.

Reverend Osborne's pastoral charge, or congregation, is one of only two affirming congregations in Saskatchewan, although there are several others, including Regina's Sunset United Church, going through the process.

Osborne explains that an affirming congregation is one that has gone through a three-year-long educational process under the supervision of Affirm Canada. Affirm Canada is an association within the United Church recognized by the Church's supreme governing body, the General Council. "Affirm provides resources to any interested faith community within the Church that is willing to challenge its tendencies towards homophobia."

The process is not an easy one. "Many parishioners still believe that they don't know any gay or lesbian people," says Osborne. " The process exposes parishioners to the lives of gay and lesbian people. It invites people to put all of their prejudices and pre-conceptions on the table. And it helps to address any questions people may have—biological, theological, scientific." Once a congregation has gone through this process, they provide documentation of their educational activities to Affirm Canada which makes the final decision on whether to recognize them as an affirming congregation.

Affirming congregations are encouraged to take concrete actions to demonstrate their commitment to their new status. For example, the Saskatchewan chapter of Affirm Canada made submissions to the federal government in support of marriage equality in the months leading up to the original Commons vote in 2005. Affirming congregations will display a rainbow symbol outside their parish, and include a reference to the fact that they are an affirming congregation in their advertising.

A designation as an affirming congregation does not mean, of course, that everyone accepts the decision, or appreciates the implications. Osborne admits, for example, that the decision to perform same sex marriages, in keeping with St. James' position as an affirming congregation, was not popular at first. To the contrary, it exposed lingering divisions in the parish. For example, an openly lesbian member of the church was lambasted by members for endorsing marriage equality.

A number of parishioners had either boycotted or ignored the educational activities held at St. James during the original affirmation process. The equal marriage debate proved, however, that some things could not be so easily swept under the carpet. The parish decided to organize four circle conferences between gay and lesbian members of the congregation and the members who were opposed to marriage equality.

"It was a good process," says Osborne. "There's often a tendency for everyone in the Church to assume that we all think alike. This process showed people that it just isn't true, and not just on this particular issue. It forced people to look into the faces of those they thought were their enemy, and express what it was that they feared."

The result was not a perfect one. Some members couldn't bring themselves to accept marriage equality and left the parish. But many others stayed, armed with a new understanding of their fellow parishioners. "They realized: I can live with this," says Osborne. " Not all of them were happy with it, but they understood that it's not the end of the world. " She hopes that, in time, the parish members will come to fully accept the decision, and their role in it.

St. James is not, however, Osborne's only experience with Church members who have pre-conceived ideas about gay and lesbian people. When she first moved to Saskatchewan from Toronto, her pastoral charge was in a small farming community in southern Saskatchewan. Her partner lived in Regina and Osborne commuted to Regina three times a week to spend time with her. She didn't discuss her private life with most of her parishioners but says that there is little doubt that they knew.

Osborne admits that nobody was outwardly hostile to her. But she contends that there was something different in the way people treated her. "There was just something in the air. Maybe it was my own stuff getting in the way, I don't know. But the fact is, my sexual orientation aside, I was a liberal pastor in a conservative small town. Try as I might, it just didn't fit."

Eventually, Osborne moved to Regina. She is currently single.

Osborne is not the only lesbian pastor to have found it difficult to adjust to life in rural Saskatchewan. She remembers hearing stories about another lesbian pastor in a nearby congregation who moved to the community with her same sex partner. Over time, the strain of living in the community took its toll on the relationship, the pastor's partner left, and the pastor suffered from a breakdown.

Osborne also admits that her relationship with her own adult children is sometimes an uneasy one, and that her ex-husband remains quite bitter about her decision to come out.

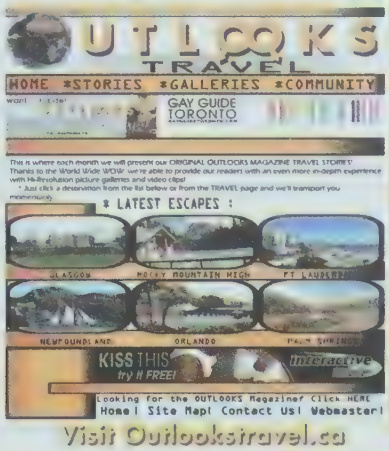
It's enough to give anyone doubts. "The United Church has a very fragile union between its liberal and conservative wings and you do wonder at times if it can continue to hang together," Osborne observes. "There are people out there who think that someone in head office is dictating these 'liberal attitudes'. Not so. But the Church has taken strong positions on divorce, on aboriginal peoples, on same sex couples. The members who decided these issues took the time to educate themselves on these issues. Many other members did not, figuring that they knew what's right. You can't help but wonder sometimes: How long can such different views of the world live side by side?"

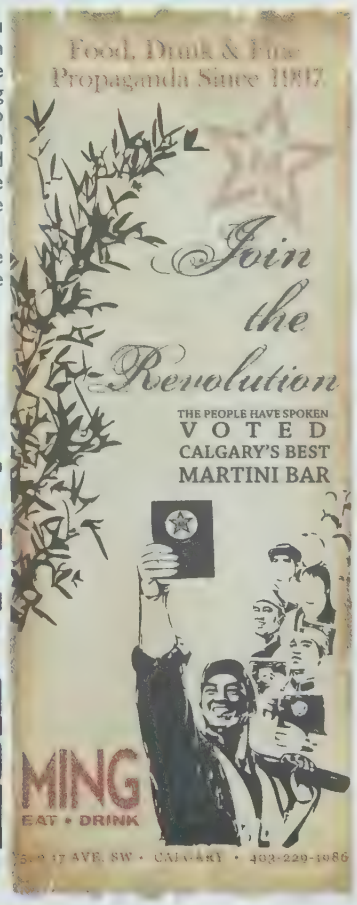
For all of her doubts, however, Osborne still believes that faith has a positive role to play in people's lives. "Everyone has faith in something. There is no one who doesn't believe in something, even if it's scientific principles, or the power of reason, or themselves. Faith is universal."

Osborne concludes, "The thing you have to ask yourself is: Does your faith bring you strength? Does your faith free you to love more? Does your faith bring you closer to people generally, and to some people specifically? Does your faith help you to understand the world? And finally, does your faith give you the courage to make a difference in the world?"

One gets the impression from the above description that Osborne must be a woman of profound faith, indeed. ▼

Rick Pollard is a long-[illegible] and one of the co-hosts of [illegible] GLBT program that airs Wednesdays [illegible] community radio in [illegible].





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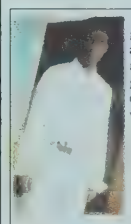
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Ghanian gay guy 23 yrs. old, looking for friends from all over the world except Ghana. Hobbies include writing letters and listening to music. Please write to: Agtg Williams
P. O. Box 278 Nsoatre Ghana



Young Ghanaian slim guy, good looking honest and interest in traveling, music. Would like to meet guy for possible friendship one to one. No time wasted. Write to:
Kyei K. Michael
P.O.Box 349
Berekum B/A.
Ghana W/A



23 year old teacher, likes swimming and travelling. Looking for a man 24-55 years old for friendship.
Write to :
Rockson Kyerniel
PO BOX 2193
Sunyani B/A
Ghana W/A



24 year old gay male, handsome, romantic, honest, understanding and sensitive. Looking for good friend 30-85 years old for meeting and lasting friendship.
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Young gay man 23 yrs. old, 5'6", 70 kgs. romantic, loyal and faithful. Seeking gay man for long-term relationship and meeting. My bobbies are swimming, outdoors, movies and traveling.
Please send photo and letter to:
Frederick Gyasi
P O Box 110 Nsoatre - B/A
Ghana - W/A
gyasi20002000@yahoo.com



Young hot african guy 26 yrs. old. Searching for serious partner anywhere in the world for long-term relationship. I'm passionate, easygoing and honest. Please write with photos and phone number and all letters will be answered with photos of me.
Richmond Kingsford
New Village Rd P.O.Box 385
Nsoatre - B/A Ghana



Attractive 26 yr. old young lady. slim, loving, caring with good sense of humor. I am looking for long term relationship possibly leading to marriage. Please write with photos and phone number to:
Miss Agyeiwaa Bertha
E. Victoria Park
P O Box 193 Nsoatre - B/A
Ghana - W/Africa

23 yrs. old gay Ghanian guy. Looking for friends in Canada. I am masculine and healthy and looking for a long term partner.
Please write to: Hinneh Evans
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402 friends



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I am a young 24yr old professional Ghanaian guy. Please write to:
Anthony Kyeremel
4640 Street P.O.Box 2193 Sunyani B/A
Ghana W/A



A Ghanaian gay man, 23 yrs old. Easy going, honest and educated. I enjoy traveling and am seeking a Canadian gay man for serious friendship. Please write to:
Afrifa Benjamin
250 Tim Street
Palm Villa Town
P.O.Box 139
Nostare B/A Ghana



Young, goodlooking, open minded, attractive, loving, single guy age 22. Looking for a man to share relationship. Looks and age are not important. Please write with e-mail or fax number and send photos.

Mohammed Mumuni
PO BOX 542
Berekum B/A Ghana W/A

Ghanian guy 26 yrs. old. I'm kind, honest, understanding, very sexy and atractive guy. 5'9 tall, enjoys sports and watching movies.
Please write to: Naa Rhymes
South Front P. O. Box 206
206, Nsoatre B/A Ghana, West Africa
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Ghanaian young, slim guy. Good looking, handsome, honest and interested in traveling. Like to meet guy for possible friendship one-to-one.No time wasted.

Write to: Ben De Kay
Flat House 6 - Villa City
PO BOX 187 - Berekum - B/A
Ghana



I am a nice slim attractive black guy 22 years old and would like to meet the man of my dreams. I am caring, sexy, loving, handsome and gentle.
Any age. Any and all replies will be answered.
Please write to Richard Asare
PO BOX 241 Nsoatre - B/A
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Young, slim Ghanaian guy. Handsome, honest, caring, romantic and easy going. Interested in traveling and music. Looking for serious guy for friendship. Please write with photo and phone number :
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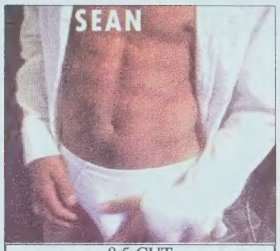
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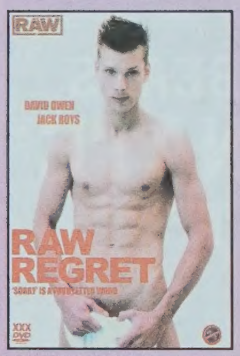
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Raw Regret

From: Eurocreme



Featuring: Cameron Jackson, Richard Said, Bill Brown, Jack Roys, Carey Lexes, Chris Cloony, Kevin Trejo, David Owen, Tom Arnott, JohnSwis, Colin Richardson, Kamil Fox, Tomi Luck, Billy Jay

Running Time: 110 Minutes

Throughout this movie one word is often repeated: "sorry". Each scenario ends on a sad note and someone somewhere has to utter that conventional apology. However, the passion and hot sex are obviously extremely enjoyable before the unpleasant outcome.

Driving along a Czech highway heading for Prague, Billy Jay and Kamil Fox have lots of room in their van so they decide to stop for a cute hitchhiker. Once inside the van, Carey Lexes soon realises that these two studs have a different kind of ride on their mind—and that he's not just a lucky guy getting a free trip to Prague. Kamil stops the van in a secluded spot so that he and Billy can enjoy the handsome traveller. Carey knows he has to submit to their wishes but once the two studs drop their jeans he realises that this may not be an unpleasant experience. Horse-hung Billy needs a lot of attention and Carey is pleased to open wide while Kamil enjoys the rear action. This threesome tries every combination possible until they are all spent and drained. But then Carey finds out his highway saviors are not headed for Prague but were simply cruising in their van looking for action. Billy and Kamil are sorry but they throw Carey out on the highway before he even has time to put his pants back on.

Cameron Jackson makes a handsome bartender with his black jacket, white shirt and red bow tie. His only customer is Richard Said—a tall, lean heavy drinker. The good bartender keeps serving drinks until eventually Richard falls asleep at his table. Cameron lets him sleep it off until closing time and then he takes Richard to his room so that he can continue sleeping until he's sober. But Richard decides he's had enough sleep and a romp on the bed with Cameron would be more fun. Once Cameron is naked Richard is in awe of the beautiful body and huge manhood, which Cameron proffers. Suddenly sober, Richard performs without any drunken mishaps and submits to Cameron's thrusts until they both climax and fall on the bed exhausted. This time Cameron falls asleep but when he awakens his customer has left without saying goodbye. Instantly Cameron realises what's happened, reaches for his wallet and to his dismay it's completely empty except for some coins and a handwritten note. The note reads, " Sorry, I'll pay you back one day, ciao."

With all the hot men from Europe, hot action and great sets, this is one movie you won't be sorry you chose.

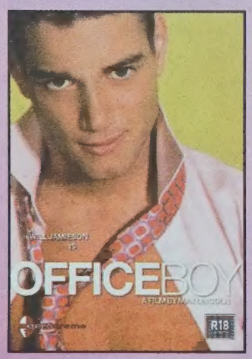
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(780)482-7480 exec.express@shaw.ca

RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★½
ACTION:	★★★★★
SETS:	★★★★
STORY:	★★★★

OfficeBoy

From: Eurocreme



Featuring: Will Jamieson, Thomas Dyk, Richard Said, Johan Volny, Nicolas Santos, Ryan Benson, Robbie G, Sean Dawson, Scott Black, Fery Shemin, Aurelien Duval, Jak Williams

Running Time: 100 minutes

It's the start of another day when Will Jamieson's alarm clock sounds at 7:30AM. Will jumps into the shower to prepare himself for another day in his high-security job in London's Whitehall district. However, the warm water wakes him up and his soapy hands wander to his swollen organ and he becomes preoccupied with himself, forgetting about work completely —only the job at hand. It's easy to see why when his full erection is in front of the camera. Will proceeds with this solo action and enjoys every minute judging by the expression on his face. It makes him late for work, but it was worthwhile.

Smartly dressed in a pin-striped suit and pink shirt, he rides the underground to work and notices how late he is when Big Ben strikes ten as he passes the famous old clock. He knows he will have to work through his lunch hour to make up for lost time. But we soon find out that in Will's job, this can actually be a pleasure.

He's trying to catch up on some work when his friend Gareth stops by to find out where Will vanished on the weekend. The interruption doesn't help Will to get his work done and it's further complicated when the office handyman arrives to do some painting. This prompts Will to daydream about a threesome right then and there in his office. He has a vivid imagination. It turns out that his two visitors are equally as well hung as Will. This is one hot escape from boring work. Gareth is soon straddled over the desk as Will and the handyman use his body for their personal pleasure. There is no resistance from Gareth as he totally enjoys the attention at both ends.

Throughout Will's day he seems to avoid work and end up doing what he loves the most. Still at the end of a hard day's exertion he is still ready to visit his boyfriend for one last sexual escapade.

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RATING:
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

MUSIC:	★★★★★
BODIES:	★★★★★½
ACTION:	★★★★★½
SETS:	★★★★★
STORY:	★★★★★

CruiseLine®



Here is a sample of ads on Cruiseline right now!

Friendship & Relationship:
Hey, 30-year-old guy here, 5'7", 185lb, professional, downtown, short, stocky build, moderately hairy, short beard. Just looking to meet some guys out there, get into the outdoors here. I enjoy movies, going out to dinner, coffee, and things like that. Just seeing who's out there.

Casual Encounters:
Hey guys. I'm 43 years old, brown hair, blue eyes, I'm 5'8", and I weigh 160lb. I've got a smooth body, and I'm in good shape. I'm 6" cut and trimmed and shaved down below. I'm looking to meet similar guys for mutual oral and rimming action. I'm in Hidden Valley in Northwest Calgary and I'm looking to travel in the area.

Casual Encounters:
Hey guys. My name's Lance and I'm 22 years old, 5'7", 125lb, short black spiky hair, brown eyes, 6-pack abs, little treasure trail going down to a nice little treasure. Actually, it's kinda not little: 7.5" long and 5.5" around, uncut. If there's anything else you wanna know, feel free to ask.

Something Wild:
Hi, I'm a dominant male in my late 40s, 6'2", 180lb, dark hair, graying at the temples, and I'm looking for a submissive bottom, transvestite or transsexual that likes to get really kinky. If that's you, then get back to me. You won't be sorry.

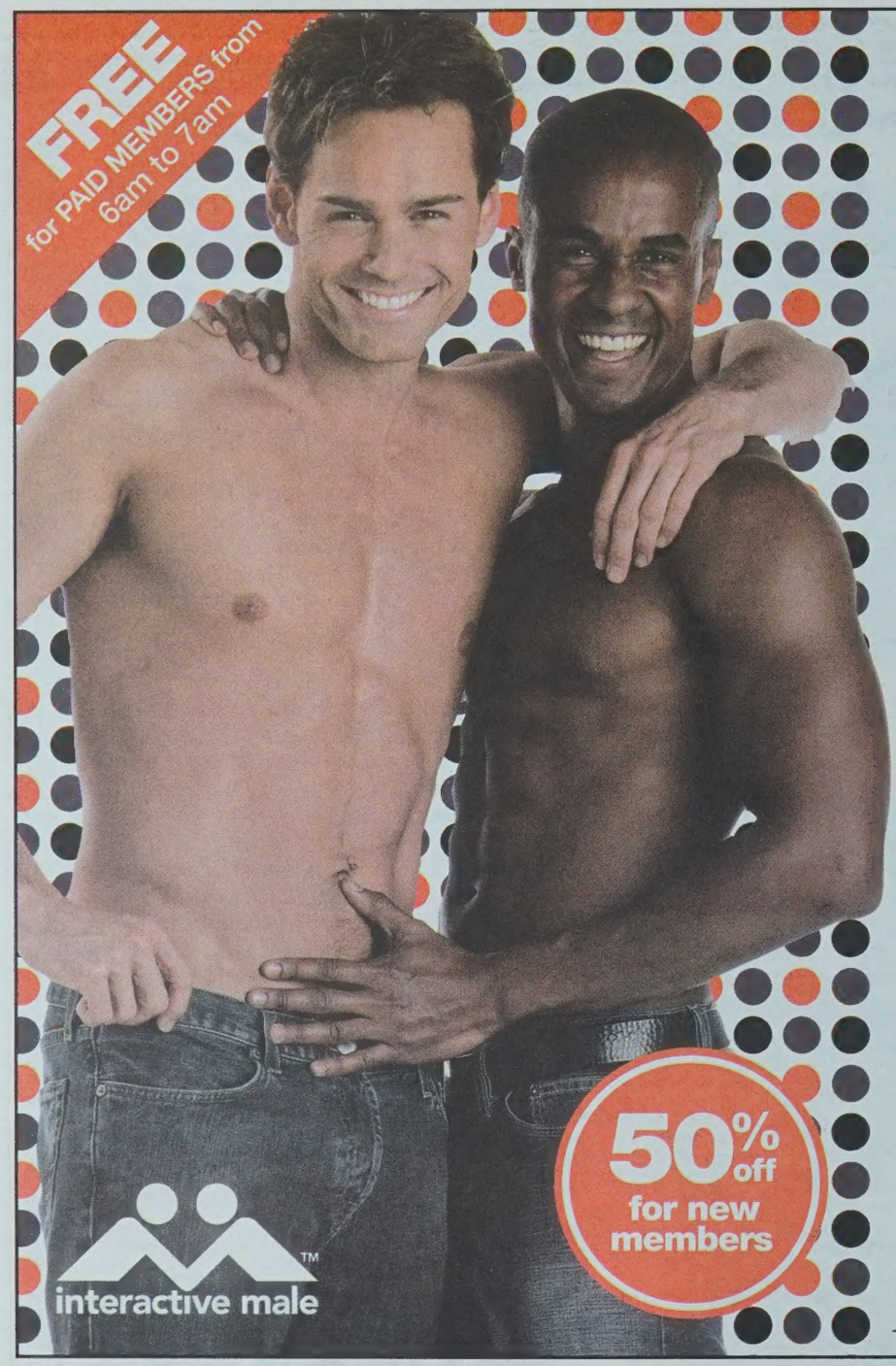
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